

REMARKS

Claims 1-42 are in this application.

Claims 1, 14, 22, and 35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,920,479 to Sojoodi et al.

Claims 1-6, 14-16, 18-27, 35-37, 39-42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,809,189 to Batson in view of U. S. Patent No. 5,920,479 to Sojoodi et al.

Claims 7-9, 11, 12, 17, 28-30, 32, 33, and 38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Batson in view of Sokjoodi and further in view of U. S. Patent No. 5,668,469 to Natori et al.

Claims 10, 13, 31, and 34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Batson in view of Sojoodi and Natori and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,736,971 to Shirai.

Claims 14, 22, 28 and 35 were objected to. These claims have been amended in the manner suggested buy the Examiner. It is submitted the objection to these claims now is moot.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the independent claims point out that the processing elements are associated with a set of user-defined instructions, whereby the user has the capability of defining the processing, as opposed to the prior art limitation whereby the user can only select from a pre-established set of processing functions. The references to Sojoodi and Batson are similar in that they are typical of the prior art limitation just noted -- they limit the user to only the pre-established set of processing functions. Sojoodi and Batson do not permit the user to use his own user-defined instructions to thereby select processing elements. Stated

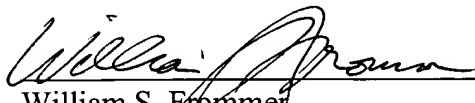
otherwise, the present invention, as defined by the independent claims, is far more flexible than the Sojoodi and Batson instruments. As a result of Applicants' claimed invention, the user himself may define different processing functions and then control the overall processing on a waveform in accordance with a graphical representation of a desired data processing flow. This is not shown or suggested by Sojoodi or Batson; and the addition of Natori fails to cure this deficiency of Sojoodi and Batson.

Accordingly, it is requested that the rejections of the independent claims 1, 7, 14, 22, 28 and 35 as being anticipated by Sojoodi, or as being obvious in view of Sojoodi, Batson and Natori, be withdrawn and that these claims be found in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, entry of this amendment and these remarks, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-42 and the allowance of this application are respectfully requested. An early notice to that effect is solicited.

Please charge any fees incurred by reason of this Amendment and not paid herewith to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,
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